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George J. Evans, Governor

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Department of

Commerce and Economic Opportunity

Jack Lavin, Director

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# Small Business Smart Energy Program

Helping Illinois businesses  
improve their bottom line  
and increase energy efficiency



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## How Can SB\$E Help Your Business?

SB\$E can help you lower your energy costs by recommending energy efficiency options at your business. You may contact SB\$E for:

- Information on energy conservation opportunities in your facility.
- An energy audit for your new or existing facility.
- Design assistance for your new facility, for your new construction project, or for your HVAC replacement and upgrade.
- Information on energy efficient equipment and services.
- Information on Geoexchange systems.
- Information on Building Operator Certification (BOC) Training.
- Information on educational opportunities such as building codes classes.

SB\$E services are provided by the Smart Energy Design Center (SEDAC) staffed from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign School of Architecture and the Geothermal Heat Pump Consortium. SEDAC will work with building owners, business operators, architects, engineers, contractors and other industry professionals. SEDAC provides unbiased, third-party consulting for energy efficiency improvements.

SB\$E establishes a network of Energy Service Providers and Design Assistance Experts to assist SEDAC.

SB\$E provides four levels of energy services:

- Level 1: Initial Consultation
- Level 2: Energy Audits
- Level 3: Design Assistance
- Level 4: Follow-up



**Level 1: Initial Consultation.** SEDAC can inform you about SB\$E opportunities, answer energy efficiency technical questions, and assess your need for additional program services. For-profit business may contact SEDAC toll free at 800/214-7954.

**Level 2: Energy Audits.** May include rehab plan review and/or site visit for existing facility. New construction plans can be reviewed for new facilities. A list of energy conservation measures that you should consider will be provided. SEDAC will work with you to determine your need for further services.

Level 3 and Level 4 services utilize substantial SEDAC resources, therefore you will be required to complete and sign the SB\$E Business Application which indicates that you will consider all cost-effective energy efficient measures identified which indicate a minimum return-on-investment of 15 percent.

**Level 3: Design Assistance.** This level involves more in-depth analysis than Level 2 and includes a life cycle cost analysis identifying specific energy conservation measures and savings. Major energy-consuming building components including building envelope, lighting, heating, cooling and ventilating systems are examined. Project plans are evaluated to identify specific opportunities for utilizing energy efficient technologies including Geoexchange (geothermal heat pumps), where applicable. Assessment includes results utilizing an energy simulation model. A cost-benefit analysis is performed in order to rank the opportunities identified.

**Level 4: Follow Up.** Support you will receive to assist you with implementing energy conservation measures from Level 3. Support may include alternative financing assistance, bid process support, and field support.

SEDAC solicits Energy Service Providers to maintain a list of Pre-Qualified Energy Service

Providers with experience in green building methods or sustainable design with an emphasis on maximizing energy efficiency. This list is a resource for you, available at [www.sedac.org](http://www.sedac.org)



## **What Business are eligible for SB\$E Level 1 Services?**

- For-Profit Businesses

## **What Business are eligible for SB\$E Levels 2, 3 and 4 Services?**

- For-Profit Businesses
- Facilities larger than 8,000 square feet and/or a minimum of \$50,000 annual utility costs
- Facilities with multiple locations larger than 5,000 sf

## **How Can Small Businesses Participate in SB\$E?**

Contact SEDAC at 800/214-7954 to determine eligibility. SB\$E Business Application can be found at: [www.illinoisenergy.org](http://www.illinoisenergy.org) or [www.SEDAC.org](http://www.SEDAC.org) or [www.geoexchange.org](http://www.geoexchange.org)

## Financing Options

The State's Participation Loan Program (PLP) can provide subordinated, low-interest credit in support of commercial projects that create or retain jobs in Illinois and leverage the State's investment dollars.

[http://www.illinoisbiz.biz/bus/gri/assistance\\_small.html](http://www.illinoisbiz.biz/bus/gri/assistance_small.html)

The Community Development Assistance Program (CDAP) Economic Development can make grants to local units of government throughout the state to help them provide low interest loans to businesses locating or expanding within their boundaries. As loans are repaid, the communities place the moneys in locally-administered Revolving Loan Funds (RLFs) that can be used to fund future economic development opportunities within each community.

[http://www.illinoisbiz.biz/bus/gri/assistance\\_comm.html](http://www.illinoisbiz.biz/bus/gri/assistance_comm.html)

Community Development Corporations (CDC) can provide loans to businesses that will employ Illinois workers in the region served by that Development Corporation.

[http://www.illinoisbiz.biz/bus/gri/assistance\\_small.html](http://www.illinoisbiz.biz/bus/gri/assistance_small.html)

Illinois Ventures for Community Action (IVCA) can provide loans and other forms of financial assistance.

<http://www.ilventures.org>

## University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign School of Architecture

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) School of Architecture, offers the SB\$E program its substantial experience assisting the building industry—architects, engineers, contractors, builders, manufacturers, and customers—in the design and construction of buildings that are innovative, technologically advanced and energy efficient. This groundbreaking program presents the UIUC and its dedicated staff with an opportunity to positively affect Illinois businesses and the Illinois building industry, on issues of energy conservation, performance, and sustainability.



University of Illinois  
School of Architecture



# Geothermal Heat Pump Consortium

The Geothermal Heat Pump Consortium (GHPC) is a nonprofit U.S. organization that was created in 1994. Its mission is to increase the awareness and use of geoeexchange, also known as geothermal heat pump technology. The GHPC's membership includes electric utilities, equipment manufacturers, architects, engineers, contractors, builders, energy service companies, other private sector companies and national organizations.

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[www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)



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[www.sedac.org](http://www.sedac.org)

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Commerce & Economic Opportunity**

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